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CIA boss' tipster a backstage oil baron

A THE New York businessman who tipped CIA director William Casey to the contra connection is a long-time behind-the-scenes player in the international oil game, with ties to one of Casey's old comrades in America's World War II spy agency.

Roy Furmark called Casey on Oct. 7 and told him how profits from U.S. arms sales to Iran were being diverted to Central America.

Sources said Furmark has known Casey for years, having met him through the late oil company executive John Shabehn, who served with Casey as an espionage agent in the WWII Office of Strategic Services.

Casey did legal work for Furmark in the mid-1970s when the CIA director was a Manhattan attorney.

Furmark is an energy consultant who heads a company called the Furmark Corp. at 30 Broadway.

Last year, he was involved in a business that tried to sell tractors and arms to Iran.

His two partners in that venture were Saudi Arabian billionaire Adnan Khashoggi — reputedly the world's richest man — and the late Cyrus Hashemi, the Iranian arms dealer and government informant believed to have ties to the CIA.

Furmark, clearly uncomfortable in his emergence as a figure in the arms deal investigation, left closed-door hearings at the Senate Intelligence Committee yesterday and made a quick dash for the elevators.

He refused to talk to reporters.